



Connecticut Chapter

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Connecticut Chapter American Society for Pain Management Nursing

Proposed Bill 5906 ~ An Act Concerning Prescriptions for Controlled Substances and Use of the Connecticut Prescription Monitoring and Reporting System

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The mission of American Society for Pain Management Nursing is to advance and promote optimal nursing care for people affected by pain by promoting best nursing practice through education, standards, advocacy, and research.

This bill would amend title 21a of the general statutes and require a health care provider who prescribes a controlled substance, to review the Department of Consumer Protection's Controlled Prescription Monitoring and Reporting System for the patients previous history of controlled substance use prior to prescribing a controlled substance to that patient.

Experience with prescription monitoring programs suggests that patients who exhibit problematic behavior patterns with respect to obtaining prescriptions are usually apparent with the first report, and are unlikely to go from behaving appropriately to exhibiting "doctor shopping" behaviors within a very short period of time. Therefore an amendment of checking the prescription monitoring program should be carried out the first time a given controlled substance is prescribed to a patient, with periodic checks thereafter, not less than every three months.

The problem with health care providers not utilizing the program has to my experience been a lack of knowledge about the program. I would further recommend that instead of mandating that healthcare providers use the system, I would recommend that they be mandated to register for the program. If the health care provider holds a Controlled Substance registration with the state they would be required to register for the program. This would introduce them to the program and its benefits, leading to a higher utilization of the program.

If amendments are to be added to title 21a I would also suggest that they include

- *Increase the frequency that dispensers must report from every two weeks to weekly. This would allow the health care practitioner to have a more realistic idea of what the patient is obtaining and decrease the possibility of the patient that doctor shops.*

Thank you for allowing me to present our view of this proposed amendment. Please feel free to call or email me if you have any questions.

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